

Jackie and Ari: Pre-Nuptial Contract

By Jack Anderson
and Les Whitten

For a moment in history, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis was superb. The nation will not soon forget that time of shock and grief after Dallas in 1963 when she rose above the shattering personal ordeal to give those bitter hours a presence of dignity and nobility which has become part of our national heritage.

And there were other moments, too, when this most beautiful of First Ladies helped to weave the spell—that mixture of high purpose, vaulting aspirations and joy in life and the battle—that once was called Camelot.

For the Kennedy legions who took to her as the keeper of the legend and to the millions who saw her as a latter-day Madonna, her sudden marriage to Aristotle Onassis—the aging, alien gnome of colossal wealth and sinister reputation—clouded the vision of Camelot.

Up to now, out of respect for what once was, we have been content to let the matter rest there in a merciful fog. But we never doubted that the time would come when the full story,

even if it turned out to be unfavorable, would be told.

To the historical interest is now joined a current public interest in discovering the disposition and control of one of the world's greatest financial empires.

We have interviewed dozens of intimates of both Jacqueline and Aristotle Onassis. We have reviewed some of Jackie's personal letters and have examined other private documents. Witnesses have given us detailed accounts of Ari's most private conversations. Every fact to be cited here, and in columns to come, has been corroborated by two or more independent, competent witnesses.

We can reveal that Jacqueline Onassis will not control any part of the Onassis empire, nor is it planned that she will receive an inheritance of any significance. The keys to that kingdom will be held by the departed shipping magnate's daughter, Christina.

Jackie has not been left destitute, however. For she carefully provided for herself in advance of her remarriage. Sources close to the couple say she wheedled a pre-nuptial commitment from Ari. As he later recounted to intimates, she pleaded that the marriage

would cost her the support of the Kennedys and that she simply had to have some money of her own.

Thus, the marriage was preceded by a premarital contract as solemn and encompassing as the leasing of one of Ari's prize supertankers.

The centerpiece of the premarital contract was a huge financial settlement on Jackie. One source who saw a draft of the contract suggested that the amount was around \$20 million. But sources close to the Onassis financial operations say Jackie received a flat \$3 million in tax-free bonds.

Additionally, some sources said, each of Jacqueline's children would receive the interest on a \$1 million trust fund until age 21 when the payments will cease and the principal will revert to the Onassis estate.

Jackie also received a monthly allowance, which started out at \$30,000 tax-free, disbursed by Onassis' New York office. Later, our sources say Onassis became angry over Jackie's prodigal spending and moved her account to his Monte Carlo office where he could watch it more closely. He also scaled down her allowance, ac-

cording to our sources, to about \$20,000 a month.

With the disarming coquetry for which she is famous, Jackie Onassis often complained about her money problems. Upon the recommendation of a Kennedy family financial adviser, but against Ari's advice, she invested in the stock market and lost a reported \$300,000. She pleaded with Ari, says our sources, to make up the loss which he refused to do, saying she should have left it in the tax-free bonds.

She also found her allowance inadequate. Often before the month was up she would send aide Nancy Tuckerman, who was on the payroll of Onassis' Olympic Airlines for about \$20,000 a year, to Ari's New York management for funds.

Sometimes Miss Tuckerman would show up no more than 15 days after the allowance had been received to beg for more money from Ari's financial man, Creon Broun. Sources who heard her appeals describe them as harrowing. "Things simply can't go on this way at the house any longer," she would say in protest against Ari's alleged parsimony.

©1975, United Feature Syndicate